

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

- 1-6. (Cancelled).
7. (Currently Amended) A ~~decentralized computer network~~ data outlet according to claim ~~48~~ 63, wherein ~~each of at least some of the communication outlets~~ said premise-data interface includes a plug for insertion into a modular jack ~~and to be thereby communicably coupled to the premises equipment.~~
- 8-12. (Cancelled).
13. (Currently Amended) A ~~decentralized computer network~~ data outlet according to claim ~~48~~ 63, wherein ~~the faceplate of at least one of the plurality of communication outlets includes~~ further comprising an analog telephone interface operatively coupled to the bridge circuitry.
14. (Currently Amended) A ~~decentralized computer network~~ data outlet according to claim ~~48~~ 63, wherein ~~the faceplate of at least one of the plurality of communication outlets includes~~ further comprising a digital telephone interface operatively coupled to the bridge circuitry.
15. (Cancelled).
16. (Currently Amended) A ~~decentralized computer network~~ data outlet according to claim ~~33~~, wherein the at least one high-level service includes data encryption.
17. (Currently Amended) A ~~decentralized computer network~~ data outlet according to claim ~~33~~, wherein the at least one high-level service includes a user authentication.
18. (Currently Amended) A ~~decentralized computer network~~ data outlet according to claim ~~33~~, wherein the at least one high-level service includes a diagnostic and status reporting to the user.
19. ((Currently Amended) A ~~decentralized computer network~~ data outlet according to claim ~~18~~, wherein the diagnostic is operative to detect a problem with a connection between the ~~user data device~~ user-equipment and the ~~communication data~~ data outlet, and wherein the status reporting is operative to notify the user of the detected connection problem.

20. (Currently Amended) A ~~decentralized computer network~~ data outlet according to claim ~~48~~ **63**, ~~each of the plurality of communication outlets further comprises~~ comprising power circuitry operative to received DC power from the data infrastructure or one of the user-data interfaces.

21. (Currently Amended) A decentralized computer network according to claim **33**, wherein the at least one high-level service includes Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) services.

22-32. (Cancelled).

33. (Currently Amended) A ~~decentralized computer network~~ data outlet according to claim ~~48~~ **63**, ~~wherein at least one of the plurality of communication outlets further comprises~~ comprising a processor operative to provide at least one high-level service to the user via at least one of the user-data interfaces.

34. (Currently Amended) A ~~decentralized computer network~~ data outlet according to claim **33**, wherein the at least one high level service includes a web service.

35-62. (Cancelled).

63. (New) A data outlet, suitable for connecting user-equipment located in a user-operating area with a premises' data infrastructure, the data outlet comprising:

user interface circuitry providing a plurality of user-data interfaces to said user-equipment,
premise interface circuitry providing a premise-data interface to said data infrastructure, and
bridge circuitry providing data packet transfer between said user interface circuitry and said premise interface circuitry; and

a housing that **(a)** is configured of rigid material and has a rear and a front; **(b)** encloses said user interface circuitry, said premises interface circuitry, and said bridge circuitry, and **(c)** is mountable in or on a wall adjacent said user-operating area such that said front provides said plurality of user-data interfaces and said rear provides said premise-data interface.